

1964-11-02

Foreign service dispatches: Mozambique.

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AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

ACTION : Lisbon, Luanda, Brussels, Pretoria

FROM : Amconsul LOURENÇO MARQUES DATE: November 2, 1964

SUBJECT : ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Belgian Views of Mozambique

REF : CERP D (10 FAM 100); Luanda Contel to Dept. 70, Brussels 10, Lisbon 65; A-123, Item 4a, Oct. 20, 1964
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The reporting officer called on Belgian Consul General Georges VANDESTRATE to discuss economic development in Mozambique. In the course of the conversation the following points were covered:

1. Belgian Economic Survey Mission

Three economists from the Société de Recherche Opérationnelle et d'Economie Appliquée (SARCO) of 522 Avenue Louise, Brussels, were contracted by the Associação Portuguesa das Empresas do Ultramar to make a detailed economic survey of Mozambique. They had compiled a report in Belgium (the outline of which, in French, is enclosed) but since it was based on documents provided from Lisbon, some aspects of which he considered outdated, Mr. Vandestrade had recommended that an on-site study be made. However, he could not regard their visit as serious or worthwhile since the head of the group, Mr. Jean Goossens, stayed in the Province less than five days and the other two economists, Messrs. Stassin and Gouverneur, only fifteen days (September 24 - October 8), which in his opinion is highly inadequate for an economic survey. If Mr. Goossens does return for a longer stay, as he said he would, Mr. Vandestrade will believe in the seriousness of purpose of the mission which he otherwise considers a propaganda junket.

Mr. Vandestrade added that the value of their program was further diminished by the fact that four Belgian journalists were included in it.

Queried as to their general reactions, Mr. Vandestrade stated that the reaction of Mr. Goossens, the chief economist, was favorable

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while that of one of the journalists was unfavorable. He added that these impressions were undoubtedly colored by the fact that Mr. Goossens was "being paid" for what he said while the journalist (whom he did not identify) is reputed to be "pro-Communist".

2. The Consul General's Personal Views

Queried as to his own assessment of the situation, Mr. Vandestrade began by stating that he [redacted] finds it difficult to obtain frank information from officials and contacts. He said that whereas he would understand such difficulties by Americans, he failed to understand their reticence toward a Belgian ("unless they think I will pass information to the Americans") since the Belgians understand the problems of the Portuguese in Africa, having had their own experience in the Congo, and particularly after having helped the Portuguese at the time of the Angola crisis. He finds there is too much secrecy, too little competition in business and industry, too much of it in the same few hands, and price fixing for raw materials by mutual agreement.

He stated that he could not estimate the safety margin for investment but remarked that the partners in the Companhia de Cervejas e Refrigerantes MacMahon, S.A.R.L. (see WTDR) which is to begin operation in January, 1965, were pegging their prices so as to recover their initial capital investment within six years. Referring again to competition, he commented that animosity on the part of the partners in the established brewery, Fábricas de Cerveja Reunidas de Moçambique, Lda. (see WTDR) is apparently so great that the MacMahon group has posted a 24-hour guard at its construction site for fear of sabotage by their future competitors.

3. Solidarity with South Africa

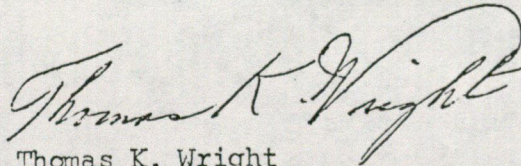
With respect to South African investments as a show of confidence in Mozambique, Mr. Vandestrade stated that South Africa's Transvaal and at least the southern part of Mozambique, regardless of Government in power, are interdependent; that since an important portion of Mozambique's revenue was earned by South African shipments through the port of Lourenço Marques, an accommodation through mutual pressures could always be arrived at. He added that a recent visit to South Africa left him with the impression that South Africans are unrealistic in thinking of mutual defense through arms and planes, not realizing that the greatest danger is from quiet Sino-Soviet bloc infiltration and subversion.

In this connection, Mr. Vandestrade stated that "he has heard" (he did not reveal the source) that the Soviet ships off the Mozambique coast were carrying helicopters.

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Mr. Vandestrade explained that his knowledge of and interest in communist strategy stems from the fact that he had been stationed in Moscow and while in Brussels specialized in Sino-Soviet bloc economic affairs and negotiations.

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Thomas K. Wright
American Consul General

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Chapitre II - L'ensemble portugais

- Bref rappel historique
- Structure actuelle nationale
- au point de vue politique et administratif
 - a) différentes catégories de territoires
 - b) la constitution et la loi organique sur les provinces d'aujourd'hui
- au point de vue économique et financier
 - données économiques et monétaires (état actuel et futur), structure financière (différentes banques, caisses et fonds)

Chapitre III - Le Portugal métropolitain

- 1) La démographie
 - a) données de structure
 - b) données de mouvement
 - c) données qualitatives : instruction, activité structure de la consommation (budget moyen d'une famille)
- 2) Les ressources, les productions, les échanges
- 3) Le budget, le bal, des paiements, les réserves (or et devises)
- 4) Le développement
 - croissance passée (taux)
 - situation par rapport à d'autres pays (revenu national...)
 - les plans de développement
 - objectifs
 - résultats { 1^o, 2^o, (3^o) plan
- 5) Accords internationaux : avec ALE, ECE, OEE, position du Portugal vis-à-vis de ces institutions

Chapitre III - Angola et Mozambique

Section I - La démographie

- A. Données de structure
 - 1) densité et répartition géographique de la population
 - 2) structures d'âge et sex-ratio (pyramide des âges)
 - 3) population blanche - métisse - noire
 - 4) répartition entre villes et campagne
- B. Données de mouvement (pour les différentes races)
 - 1) accroissement naturel : (natalité, fécondité, mortalité, mortalité infantile)
 - 2) migrations : { internes, externes

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- C. Données qualitatives :
 - 1) répartition
 - 2) activités (primaires, secondaires, tertiaires)
 - 3) structure de la consommation (budget d'une famille moyenne).

Section II - Les transports

- A. Réseaux existants
- B. Caractéristiques : diversité orientations
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Section III - Les facteurs de production

- A. Les ressources naturelles (industrielles agricoles
- B. L'énergie
- C. Le travail (démographique)
- D. Le capital { son importance : entreprises capitalistes ou artisanales? }
 - { son origine
 - { sa distribution : structure financière banques }

Section IV - La production

- Répartition entre secteurs primaire, secondaire, tertiaire
- Evolution de la production dans les dernières années
- Nombre d'établissements industriels

Section V - Les échanges

- A. Intérieurs : circuits de distribution
- B. Extérieurs
 - 1) structure de la balance des paiements
 - balance des capitaux
 - balance des services
 - balances commerciales (par produits par pays)
 - 2) Droits de douane et contingents

Section VI - Les finances publiques - Budget

Section VII - Le développement économique

6 Taux de croissance, revenus individuels

- 1) objectifs des 1^{er}, 2^o, 3^o, plans
- 2) réalisations des 1^{er}, 2^o, plans

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Section VIII - Guide pratique pour l'investisseur

- Liste des banques, administrations, sociétés...
- Régime fiscal
- Investissements, prévus, au dernier plan, par secteurs: sidérurgie, chimie, transports, etc.....